

## Interview with Kathleen Sullivan

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Excerpt from Interview # 6: March 6, 2012

Interviewer: Mark DePue

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DePue: I wanted to turn then, to after it goes down to defeat in Illinois. This was a crucial year for the pro-ERA forces, to really get it passed in Illinois as one of their prime states that they are focusing on. It's about that time, August fifteenth, that the U.S. Congress decides to extend the ERA's deadline another three years. It was going to expire in 1979—that seven year rule that you had to pass it. So now it will expire June 30, 1982. I know you remember this incident. What was your reaction to hearing that?

Sullivan: (laughter) Well, here we go again—typical . If they don't get their way, they do something illegal and make it sound like it was legal. It wasn't supposed to be extended. There was no legal provision for it, but when you've got the votes you do anything you want, and that's exactly what they did. They just rode roughshod and got it through Congress. I'm trying to think who in Washington was really the leader of that operation, though I guess it doesn't matter. They said they wanted to extend it and they thought at the time, they could wear it down and wear down Illinois and one or two others and get it through. But frankly, it was one of those situations that by doing something so blatantly power-grab, I remember that it turned out to sort of strengthen our forces, and we just kept going.